

of a news item about the alleged role played by an officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs in a conspiracy to discredit the Government, the office room of the officer was searched by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry in his (the officer's) presence. Based on the documents seized from his room, it was considered appropriate to place him under suspension. A show cause notice was also served to him. His reply to the notice is being examined.

(c) and (d) The suspected complicity of the said officer in an incident of leakage of classified information by another officer to unauthorised persons is separately under investigation. However, the said officer had not been occupying a sensitive post in the Ministry.

Involvement of P. W.G. and M.C.C. in Extremist Activities in Border Areas

4280. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the involvement of P.W.G. and M.C.C. in extremist activities and individual killings in the Border areas of West Bengal and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the P.W.G. was also active in Garbeta P.S. Area of Midnapur District in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the response of Government to the statements by P.W.G. spokesmen both from Kolkata and Hyderabad to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the efforts being made by the CPML-PW and MCC to increase their areas of influence and expand their base in various States including West Bengal and Jharkhand. Activities of the MCC and CPML-PW have been noticed in the districts of West Bengal which are adjacent to Jharkhand, including in Garbeta P.S. area of Midnapore district.

[25 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to curb left wing extremist activities in the States. A high level Coordination Centre, regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by States to check left extremist activities.

Intelligence inputs regarding the plans and activities of extremist groups are shared with the States from time to time. Funds are also provided for modernization of State Police Forces, to equip them to tackle the problem effectively. Emphasis is given to special training to the police forces in anti-extremist operations.

NHRC Visit to Gujarat

4281. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) ever visited Gujarat when churches were burnt/brought down and after the Staines incident in Orissa; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has received several complaints from various individuals/organisations alleging demolition of churches in the State of Gujarat. However, it was brought to the notice of the Commission that the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was also seized of the matter. The NCM had also sent a fact-finding team to Gujarat headed by one of its members. Therefore, the Commission observed that it would not be appropriate for it to embark upon a parallel inquiry in view of the provisions contained under section 36(1) of the Protection of Human Rights Act.